

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 311138 TOSEC 130071
ORIGIN NODS-00

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S E C R E T STATE 311138 TOSEC 130071

NODIS
CHEROKEE - EYES ONLY FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO EGYPT

1. I HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HAMILTON JORDAN AND SEE THE MERITS IN THE POINTS WHICH HE MADE TO THE PRESIDENT WITH RESPECT TO DOMESTIC ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF A MEETING WITH SADAT.

2. WE MUST ANTICIPATE, NONETHELESS, THAT THERE WILL BE STRONG ISRAELI INTEREST WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE AMERICAN JEWISH SUPPORT FOR A CORRESPONDING GESTURE TOWARDS BEGIN. BAR-ON'S CALL TO VELIOTES INQUIRING ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S PLANS POSSIBLY REFLECTS ISRAELI CONCERN.

3. FURTHERMORE, THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE SEEN SEVERAL ARAB LEADERS DURING HIS TRIP AND THIS, TOO, WILL ADD TO THE PRESSURE FOR A GESTURE TOWARDS ISRAEL.

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4. I UNDERSTAND WHY IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE PRESIDENT TO VISIT TEL AVIV. HOWEVER, I RECOMMEND CONSIDERATION OF A WELL-PUBLICIZED AND PRE-ANNOUNCED TELBA PHONE CALL TO BEGIN AFTER THE SADAT MEETING, OR POSSIBLY AN INVITATION TO BEGIN TO MEET THE PRESIDENT IN PARIS OR BRUSSELS.

5. AN ADDITIONAL THOUGHT. YOUR VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST
IS TWO WEEKS AWAY AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT
INTERVENING EVENTS. HOWEVER, IF I UNDERSTAND YOUR
PRESENT THINKING, YOU BELIEVE THAT IF THE PRESIDENT
VISITS ASWAN, YOU SHOULD ONLY GO TO JERUSALEM. A FURTHER
REASON FOR THE PRESIDENT TO MAKE A DEMONSTRABLE MOVE
TOWARDS BEGIN (POSSIBLY ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED ABOVE)
IS THAT IT WOULD MAKE IT POLITICALLY POSSIBLE FOR YOU
TO STOP IN CAIRO AFTER JERUSALEM. IN ORDER TO PLAY A
MEDIATING ROLE ONCE AGAIN, YOU COULD WELL DECIDE THAT
IT IS NECESSARY TO SEE SADAT, TOO.

CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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